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Better Grapes and How to Grow Them

W. D. SYDNOR

GRAPE SPECIALIST

ELLERSON

VIRGINIA



*S*PECIALIZING as I do on grape vines, I am able to give your orders my personal attention. All orders come before me personally, and I take great pains to see there is no mixture of varieties.

You are assured of getting well-developed, disease-free vines, true to name. The vines from which my stock are grown are in a carefully recorded vineyard.

W. D. SYDNOR

GRAPE VINE SPECIALIST

ELLERSON : : VIRGINIA



OF all fruits, the grape is the easiest to grow. They can be grown in all parts of the country and under almost any condition. They require very little care and a few feet of ground space is sufficient for each vine.

Grapes reward the planter much sooner for his effort than other fruits. Sometimes the fruit is obtained the same year that vines are planted, but usually it is the next season. The vines should fruit heavily the third year.

They can be planted almost anywhere, in the garden, alongside the border fence or porch. If space permits, an arbor is well worth while.

HOW TO PLANT

The vines have been properly pruned before mailing. Dig the holes about 12 inches square and 12 inches deep. Fill in about 6 inches with the top soil, firm with the feet. Now place the roots in the hole in as near a natural position as possible and fill in with more top soil, working in the dirt about the roots with the fingers. If there are roots at several heights try to place them as they grow and not all bundled up together at the bottom. This is easy to do by holding up the top ones until you have filled in a little dirt over the lower ones. It is all quickly done—quicker than it takes to read about it.

Place no fertilizer in the hole except some bone meal. Mix this in with the soil you place in the hole with the vine.

After planting, keep manure at least 6 inches from the vines and have the dirt sloping away from the vines so the manure will not burn them. When you have finished planting, firm the dirt in the hole with the feet. Don't be afraid you will hurt the vines by packing too tight. It is better that way.



HOW TO GET QUICK RESULTS

When you plant your vines, drive a good stake 6 feet long and about an inch thick by each vine. The stake is, of course, unnecessary if you plant beside a post or along a wire fence. When the vines begin to grow pinch off all the shoots except one. Select the strongest one, the one easiest to tie up to the stake. Every week or two tie the vine again, and also pinch off all side shoots. In this way you will be able to get a lot of growth the first year.

It is but common sense that by confining all the growth where you want it you will get quicker results. Keep the vine tied every six inches. This will also give you a nice straight trunk like a small tree and will look so much better than the twisted trunk you usually see.

The second season only allow the side shoots to grow where you want them, but none should be allowed lower

than two feet. Your arbor or wire on the trellis will tell you where you want the shoots to grow. Allow two each way, a total of four. These are the ones that are to produce the grapes.

In later years prune in the winter and leave sufficient buds to bear the next year's crop. Each bud will bear from 2 to 4 bunches, so a full-grown Concord vine with 60 buds left on it will bear about 180 bunches of grapes. So don't be afraid to prune to 60 buds at the most; 40 is probably better.

Remember, the only permanent part of the vine necessary is the main trunk from the ground up to about 5 feet. The side canes are renewed every year, as they only bear grapes one season. The grapes come only from buds on the past season's growth. Select shoots about the size of a lead pencil. This is the best size, better than the large ones; try to get four of these shoots and cut off all other growth, both old and new. Now shorten back the four shoots to the desired number of buds, which is from 10 to 15 buds each. When cutting off other new shoots leave several of them with two buds each to make new growth for another year. This is all there is to it. Simply retain the number of buds on new growth and cut off all else. The old trunk is all that is essential to retain the old vine each year.



A SIMPLE WAY TO GROW CHOICE GRAPES

Put each bunch in a bag as soon as the grape has formed. Do not mistake the bud of the blossom for a small grape. When the little bunches first form, they are the buds of the grape blossom, and they are not perfectly round. Watch them and you will see them bloom and the little grapes will be found in the center of the blossom. As soon as possible after the blossoms have fallen and before the grape is as big as a pea, tie or pin over the bunches two-pound bags, regular paper bags from the grocery store. Fasten over the cane of the vine and not around the bunch stem. It is best to cut a very small hole in the corner of the bag to let out any rain that gets in. Bagging protects from birds, disease and insects and the grapes grow better and keep better. It is also protection from light fall frosts.



GRAPE GROWING FOR MARKET

My advice to those planting for market is to stick to the well-proven sorts for the main planting and to try out others in small quantities.

The main varieties planted for market purposes are for the early varieties: Moore Early (black), Empire (white), Delaware (red). For the main crop: Concord (black), Vervengennes and Caco (red) and Niagara (white). For late varieties: Goethe (red) for the South, and Catawba (red) for the North.

For covering arbors, porches and buildings, etc., try America, Wine King, and if no grapes are wanted, use the Riparia Gloire, the most vigorous grower of all. All the varieties I list are worth planting.

HOW TO ORDER—POSTPAID PRICES

On the pages that follow are listed all the leading varieties grouped under three general headings, Black, Red and White, and listed in the order of ripening.

A handy order blank is enclosed for convenience, and when filled out with name and post-office clearly written and accompanied by money order or check, your order in most cases will be shipped the same day received, charges prepaid.

Prices postpaid anywhere in the United States:

1 to 9 vines, 40 cents each, except where noted.

10 to 49 vines, 30 cents each, except where noted.

For larger lots, send list for special prices.

If you are not certain as to selection of varieties, just order the number of vines and write me a few words as to what you most desire, leaving the selection to me. I promise my best services in selecting the varieties best suited to your particular needs.

Your letter asking any questions regarding grape growing will receive thoughtful attention. It will be a pleasure at all times to answer any questions.



CONCORD—Known to every one, the standard grape of the East, and will do well everywhere. The best variety for both home and market. With care can be counted to bear a full crop every year. The grapes will hang on the vines for a long time in good condition.

BLACK VARIETIES

Listed in the Order of Ripening



MOORE—Is the standard commercial early grape, and is best described as an early Concord. While it will not bear as heavy crops as Concord, it is still the best early black grape to plant, either for home use or for market.

ECLIPSE—This variety is recommended only for trial except in regions where it has proved to be valuable.

WORDEN—A grape of high quality, better in the North than South; in the South it ripens unevenly. Valuable anywhere on account of its high quality and heavy cropping.

CONCORD—(See Illustration.)

IVES—A strong, vigorous grower and heavy cropper. Not as good a grape as Concord to eat, but fine where lots of grapes are wanted for red juice.

R. W. MUNSON—A grape for the far South, recommended only for this region, where it is recommended for commercial plantings, especially in Florida.

CLINTON—A famous old wine variety. Bunches and berries are small, but highly colored. A rank grower, and is especially suited for grafting stock on which to graft weaker growing kinds. It bears heavy crops.

AMERICA and WINE KING—Rank growing varieties, especially fine for arbors and covering buildings and fences. Bear heavy crops of grapes, the juice of which is intense red.

HERBERT—Ripens with Concord, but keeps and ships better. The New York Experiment Stations says: "In all that constitutes a fine table grape, Herbert is as near perfection as any American grape." However, I only recommend it for home use, unless a test has proved it suits your locality.



NIAGARA—This is the old stand-by. A very heavy cropper of beautiful large bunches of very fine grapes. Bears larger and better grapes in the South than in the North, but is recommended for all sections for both home use and market. For home use, I highly recommend bagging the bunches. Ripens with Concord and keeps well on the vine so that the harvest can be extended over a long time.

NORTON—A famous old wine grape. The vines are extremely hard to grow and very few nurserymen list it. A rank grower, especially suited to the South. Price, \$1.00 each.

CANANDAIGUA—A grape in quality somewhat like Herbert. Recommended especially for its keeping qualities; it seems to improve, if anything, in storage.

SHERIDAN—A new grape, originated by the New York Experiment Station, and highly recommended by them. A better keeper and shipper than Concord and expected eventually to take the place of that variety to a large extent. Stock very scarce. \$1.00 each, straight.

BARRY and PRESIDENT—Two others on the order of Herbert.

WHITE VARIETIES

Listed in the Order of Ripening

ONTARIO and PORTLAND—Two new varieties originated by the New York Experiment Station. They are the earliest of all grapes. Very fine quality, good size berries and bunches. Highly recommended for home and market. Very few vines on hand. Price, \$1.00 each, straight.

EMPIRE—Ripens between Ontario and Niagara. The berries are medium size and the bunch large. The flavor is exceptionally rich. The vines are vigorous and productive and require close pruning. Better adapted to the South and Central portions of the country than to the North. Recommended for home use and for market where it grows well.

NIAGARA—(See Illustration.)

DIAMOND—A midseason variety, one of the old standards.

RIPLEY—Another new one from New York; midseason, very meaty. Recommended for home use only. But few vines on hand. \$1.00 each, straight.



G O E T H E —
The finest flavored
grape grown. (See
full description on
page 14.)

RED VARIETIES

Listed in the Order of Ripening



DELAWARE—This variety is considered the very best in flavor, and is used as a standard with which to compare others. The berries and bunches are small and the vine is not a rank grower and can be planted 6 feet apart in the row.

MASSASOIT—This is one of Rogers Hybrids, all of which are noted for fine flavor. It is early. Both bunch and berry are large.

BRILLIANT—Another early variety, recommended for both home and market. It seems to do well in all parts of the country. Both bunch and berry are of good size.

VIRGINIA BEAUTY—Here is a variety that has done exceptionally fine in my vineyard. In flavor it is the best and the bunch and berry are large, the vine very fruitful and healthy. It is probably the finest red grape in my vineyard, taking all things into consideration. I heartily recommend it for home and market. The supply is limited. Price, \$1.00 each, straight.

WYOMING RED—The main value of this variety lies in its hardiness and productiveness and in the beauty of the grapes. The color is brilliant red, but lacks in quality. Worth trying.

LUTIE—Quite similar to the above, except the color is dull red and the bunch smaller. Does well commercially in some parts of the country. Recommended for trial only.

CACO—The new red grape that has been highly praised. The berries are very large and a beautiful color. Very juicy. Best suited to dry soils. For home use and for local markets.

SALEM—Still another of the famous Rogers Hybrids. Very large berries of the very finest flavor and nice bunches. For home use.

BUTLER—Another new one from New York, and a great favorite among those who know good quality. Very few vines on hand. \$1.00 each, straight.

HANOVER—Still another new sort, a heavy cropper of grapes in appearance like Catawba, but sweeter. Originated by the New York Station. \$1.00 each, straight.

VERGENNES—Here is the most reliable grape that I know of. It can be counted on to bear heavy crops year after year. It will overbear unless it is pruned close, not over 30 buds to the mature vine. If you want to extend the crop over a longer period try leaving more buds. This will delay the ripening several weeks. You can pick Vergennes grapes over a longer period than any other variety. They are great keepers and very popular on the market. Does best on good land. Highly recommended for home and particularly for market.

CATAWBA—Next to Delaware this is the best known red variety. It is one of the standard market varieties. It is a reliable heavy cropper of fine grapes that ship and keep well. Recommended for both home use and market where a late variety is wanted. Will not mature in the far North. It reaches perfection around Keuka Lake, in New York, where extensively grown.

GOETHE—Here is my favorite. In quality it is the best of all. The berries are very large. Those who eat these grapes always come back for more. It is very late and ripens over a long period. It must be pruned very close, as the buds are close together. About 30 buds is right for this variety, and it likes good land. It is another of Rogers Hybrids, and in the South it surpasses all the others in quality. Not recommended for the North except in warm locations with a long growing season, but well worth trying for home use anywhere, as the high quality makes it worth trying even in the North. On the sunny side of the house it should ripen thoroughly and give you a taste of the finest flavored grape. Highly recommended for market in the South. Even in Florida it is reported as very profitable.

URBANA—Here is the nearest approach that has ever been attained in getting an European grape on an American vine. The fruit is meaty and of good quality. It is a great keeper. Will keep all winter in a good fruit cellar. Originated by the N. Y. Experiment Station. Requires a long growing season to reach perfection. Very few vines on hand. Price, \$1.00 each, straight.

GRAFTING

Grafting grapes on vigorous growing root-stocks greatly increases the crop. You get larger bunches and finer ones. This is especially true of such varieties as Delaware, Catawba, Iona, etc.

Grafting is done in the spring, while the buds are still dormant. The root stocks should be at least three-quarters of an inch in diameter. Saw this off at the ground. Now either split it open or saw it. Force it open with a chisel. Fit into this opening the cutting of the variety you wish to grow, cutting it wedge shape to fit the split in the root stock. Care must be taken to get the bark of each together. Do no tying, simply mound up with earth about 6 inches above the graft. This to keep from drying out.

GRAFTING STOCK

RIPARIA GLOIRE

RIPARIA X RUPESTRIS NO. 101

RIPARIA X RUPESTRIS NO. 3306

RIPARIA X RUPESTRIS NO. 3309

RIPARIA X BERLANDIERI NO. 420-A

RUPESTRIS LE RUE

ARAMON X RUPESTRIS GANZIN NO. 1

RUPESTRIS X BERLANDIERI NO. 219-A

OLONIS ROBUSTA

VIALA

CORDIFOLIA X RIPARIA NO. 125

CHASSALIS X BERLANDIERI NO. 41-B

CLINTON

GRAFTED VINES AND OTHER VARIETIES

I have a small stock of European varieties grafted of roots that make them hardy in the East; also a few of the American varieties also grafted to make them more vigorous. Price of grafted vines, \$1.50 each, postpaid.

"Manual of American Grape Growing"

This book by Hendrick gives complete information in all matters pertaining to grape growing. Written in an interesting style that is easily understood. Fully illustrated, it is the best book on this subject that I know, and I highly recommend it. Price, \$3.00, postpaid.



A VINEYARD that I planted for the Development Department of the Seaboard Air Line Railway in the Fruit Hills Section of South Carolina.

There are seventy-five varieties in the vineyard. When this picture was taken the vines were two years old.

My services are available for large plantings of this character.

W. D. SYDNOR

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